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## Spring is pothole season

Here in Minnesota we welcome spring - it's the potholes we could do without. Unfortunately for our streets, the two go hand-in-hand. As temperatures warm up during the day, ice and snow melt and fill cracks in the pavement with water. At night, the water freezes and expands, popping out the asphalt and creating a pothole.

Potholes are also created when traffic stresses the roadway which causes movement of the subsurface. Once there is a weak spot, every car that travels over it worsens the problem and, eventually, a section of the pavement will fail.

Repairs are made to potholes and other roadway failures in order of priority. Street Maintenance crews install a temporary patch and then prioritize the potholes by size, number and street traffic volume to see if more extensive repairs are warranted.

Every effort is made to repair potholes within 24 hours of notification. To report potholes, please call Public Works Maintenance at 952-563-8760. ♦

## "The Vault" and other grave facts



Walter and Marie Pederson, who lived next door to the City Cemetery at 103rd Street and Lyndale Avenue South, became the cemetery's first caretakers in 1911. In winter, Walter would chisel out graves by hand to get below the frost line. Hot coals were left overnight in the uncompleted trench to thaw the ground. The brick structure shown here was built by residents and known as "the Vault". Once used to store the dead when the ground became too frozen to dig, it now serves as a tool storage shed.

### Record keeping at a glance

To identify graves, Marie developed a record system using her dining room window. As she looked out over the cemetery, she would pull down on the window shade and write the name that corresponded to the grave location. In the early 70s, the City Clerk took over the window-shade-marking system and, today, maintains cemetery records by computer. ♦

## Airport's noise mitigation plan on hold

The Metropolitan Airports Commission's (MAC) plan to reduce noise levels inside homes surrounding the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport is delayed. The slowdown in airline travel has severely reduced MAC's budget, postponing the completion of the new north-south Runway 17/35 until late fall 2004. The City of Bloomington continues to work with residents to lessen the noise impacts of the new runway. Noise mitigation meetings for residents east of Trunk Highway 77 (Cedar Avenue) were held last October.

### Acquisition

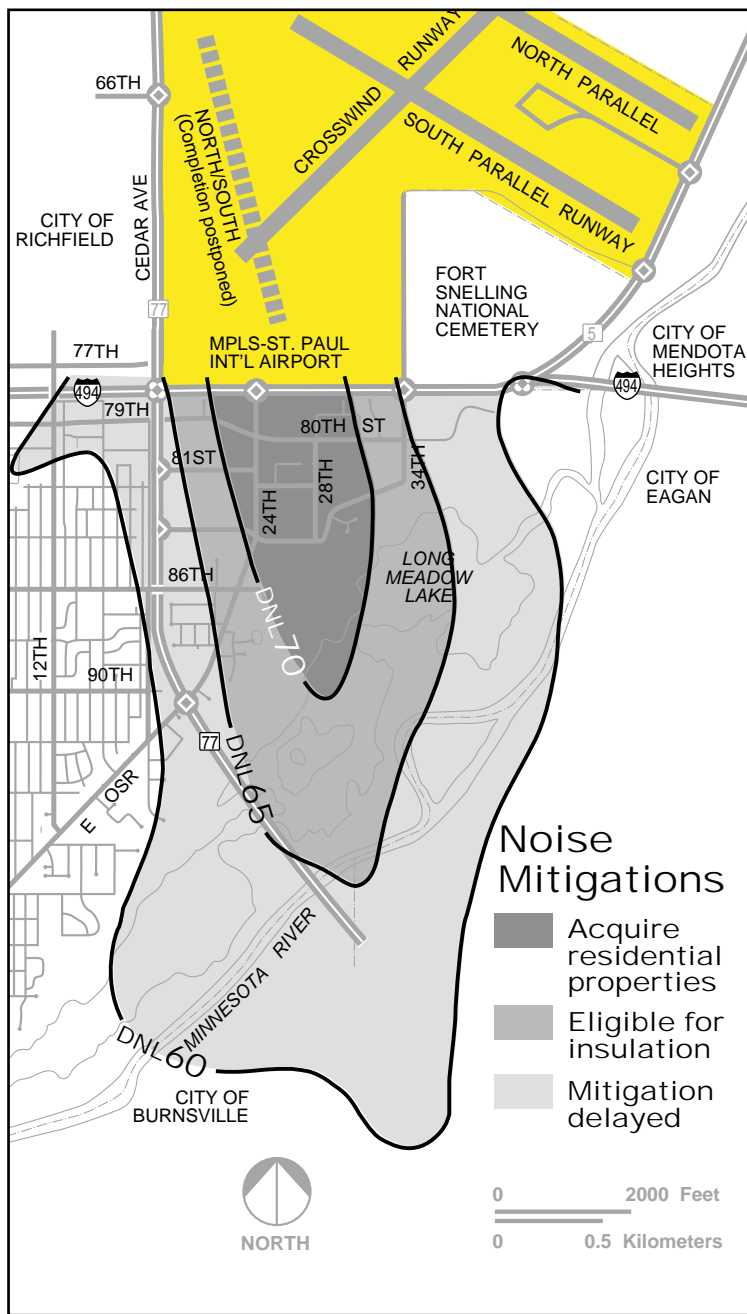
MAC's noise mitigation plan includes sound insulation and housing acquisition in the noisiest areas of Bloomington and Richfield. MAC has

already approved acquisition of residential property east of Cedar Avenue located in the highest noise area, DNL (Day-Night Level) 70 contour. See map. This includes 29 single-family homes, four vacant lots and 132 multi-family units located in two apartment complexes. Acquisition of these properties will be delayed for one year.

### Sound insulation

Homes inside the DNL 65 contour are eligible for noise insulation measures. MAC's decision on the type of mitigation for homes within the DNL 60 to 64 contour will be delayed until April or later.

For more information, call Carolyn Lane at the City of Bloomington, 952-563-8948. ♦



## Motor Vehicle Office

If you haven't used our facility lately, this reminder is for you. Last summer, the Bloomington Motor Vehicle Office moved to its permanent location at 9930 Logan Avenue South. Office hours are Monday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 952-563-8719. ♦



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Bloomington MN 55431-3096

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## Services that strengthen our community

Mayor Gene Winstead

City staff performs many services with quiet efficiency in the background of our busy lives.

### Park Maintenance enhances our valuable natural resources



#### TAKING PRIDE IN OUR PARKS

To maintain park facilities, the average Bloomington home with the Assessor's market value of \$178,900 pays

\$2 per month

#### A valuable amenity

Park facilities provide recreational and relaxation opportunities for all ages, ability levels and interests. From the archery range to soccer fields, wetlands to hiking trails, our city's parks and natural areas are unmatched in the metro area. Bloomington's park system is enhanced by Hyland Park Reserve and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Nine Mile Creek. The Park Maintenance Division preserves our valuable resources by ensuring our parks are well-maintained.

#### Service to the community

Busy year-round, 26 full-time employees and 30 - 35 summer positions make up Park Maintenance. In winter, staff maintains 18 hockey rinks and general skating areas and plows snow on 300 miles of sidewalks throughout the city. Crews support more than 100 baseball, softball and soccer fields that thousands of children and adults use all summer. During picnic season, Park Maintenance is on hand at the City's five picnic shelters to make sure visitors enjoy the facility. Employees mow more than 700 acres in Bloomington. Staff train weekly regarding safety issues and meet to discuss conduct, ethics and customer relations in order to provide better service.

#### Safety inspections

Our City parks and schools contain 55 playgrounds where equipment is inspected and

"We constantly look for ways to improve the service we provide. By seeking input from both the public and community organizations, we strive to meet their needs and expectations."

Paul Edwardson, Parks Manager



#### PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS

repaired on a regular basis to ensure the safety of the many children that use them. Two Park Maintenance employees, who are trained "Playground Safety Inspectors" certified by the National Playground Safety Institute, perform weekly walk-through inspections.

#### Community partnerships

Strong partnerships and working relationships with athletic and other community organizations enhance our parks. Park Maintenance staff works with groups which include the Bloomington Athletic Association, who help provide equipment and funding for parks and programs. Currently under construction with completion expected by spring 2003 are three new soccer fields funded in part by a "Mighty Kicks" state grant of \$100,000.

#### Enhancing quality of life

Parks are a necessary amenity for a community of quality to provide. In Bloomington, we are surrounded by a rich blend of open spaces, lakes, wetlands, trees and wildlife. The Park Maintenance staff is committed to maintaining these areas so that our residents and visitors may continue to enjoy this natural beauty. ♦



#### TARGETING RESIDENTS' NEEDS

Bloomington Sister City presents...

## Kite Day

2002



Bring your own colorful high-flyer, make a kite or buy one on site! This free family event has kite-dancing demonstrations and prizes.

**When:** Saturday, May 4.

**Time:** 12 - 4 p.m.

**Where:** Valley View Playfields, 90th Street and Portland Avenue.

**Rain date:** Saturday, May 11.

For more information, call 952-563-8712. ♦

#### Bloomington City Council

**Mayor** **Councilmembers** council@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Gene Winstead  
952-888-1258(h)  
mayor@ci.bloomington.mn.us



**At Large**  
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952-885-0506(h)



**At Large**  
Mike Fossum  
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**District I**  
Steve Peterson  
952-884-3262(h)



**District II**  
Heather Harden  
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**District III**  
Steve Elkins  
612-578-2103(c)



**District IV**  
Vern Wilcox  
952-854-1425(h)

Photographs of elected officials are presented by the City of Bloomington for informational purposes only.

#### City Manager

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Visit our Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).

The **Briefing**, a bimonthly newsletter published by the municipal government organization of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, is mailed to Bloomington residents and businesses. Direct comments or suggestions to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 2215 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3096; phone 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; e-mail [dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us). If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818.

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. • The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3096; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.



## Bloomington Tomorrow



### Promise Fellow to enhance youth initiative

*In its four-year history, Bloomington United for Youth (BUY) has educated, nurtured and supported youth.*

This year, BUY received a grant to fund an AmeriCorp Promise Fellow to assist the youth initiative. Bloomington became a Community of Promise with 17 founding partners in 2000.

#### Promises to the community

In order to create a successful Community of Promise, the BUY Board believes an ongoing presence for youth efforts is needed. The full-time AmeriCorp Promise Fellow will communicate the efforts of the network partners, facilitate connections and strengthen the message of BUY's five promises to the community. *See sidebar.*

#### Linking youth, community and partners

The City of Bloomington and the Bloomington School District will supervise the Promise Fellow with support

from an advisory group. The focus will be to connect the Promise Fellow with established and developing programs and to make

#### BUY's 5 promises

- 1 Mentor** - Ongoing relationships with caring adults.
- 2 Protect** - Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours.
- 3 Nurture** - Healthy start for a healthy future.
- 4 Teach and learn** - Marketable skills through effective education.
- 5 Serve** - Opportunity to give back through community service.

Bloomington a more youth-enriching environment by:

- ◆ Supporting youth-driven, adult-guided activities.
- ◆ Involving youth in the decision-making of youth organization.

- ◆ Developing better communication between Community of Promise partners to celebrate accomplishments, build enthusiasm, share learning and create inclusive, integrated services.

#### For more information

BUY believes that with the support of a Promise Fellow the joint efforts of all partners of BUY will be strong, apparent and continuing for the youth in Bloomington. To become a Community of Promise partner or assist the Promise Fellow in our mission, call Bloomington United for Youth at 952-886-8802. ◆

## Bloomington Yesterday

### Savage Mansion - built 1906

This mansion once stood on the bluffs of the Minnesota River east of Normandale Avenue. It was the summer home of Colonel Marion William Savage, one of the most colorful characters in Bloomington's past. Colonel Savage came to Bloomington from Akron, Ohio. He was internationally renowned for his racehorses, the most famous of which was Dan Patch. Colonel Savage built the mansion so he could look south across the river at his mahogany-finished barn and private racetrack. The Masons eventually purchased the land, and the mansion served as the original Masonic Home. It was torn down when the facility outgrew the building. ◆



*Photo credit: Bloomington and Minnesota Historical Societies.*

## Facility Update

### Laying the groundwork for quality services

Construction of the new Police / City Hall / Arts Center facilities between 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road is underway. In December, the City Council approved nearly \$25 million in construction contracts.

#### Work in progress

Demolition and environmental cleanup of the Milhoff Steel building was completed in February. Footings and foundation walls are set for the Police facility, City Hall and the Arts Center. Pre-cast concrete and steel erection for the Police facility will begin in April. In late spring, metal decking and cement block work starts and mechanical and electrical contractors will be on site. The facility opening is planned for April 2003.

For more information, call Clark Arneson at 952-563-8921 or e-mail [carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

#### Monitor construction

Log on to the City's Web site to monitor the construction of the new City facilities. Photos, updated three times every week-day, are available at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword "webcam". ◆



### Citizenship Award honors residents



Janelle and Danae Nelson accept the Citizenship Award with grateful neighbor Dell Rodeski standing by.



Volunteer Shirley Cook posed with Mayor Gene Winstead and her Citizenship Award.

Last fall, the City Council presented three Bloomington residents with the Excellence in Citizenship Award. **Janelle and Danae Nelson** and **Shirley Cook** were recognized for their efforts in building a stronger community.

#### Neighbors helping neighbors

Danae Nelson, 10, did not panic when she came to the aid of her neighbor, Dell Rodeski, who was injured while working on his house. Danae immediately got her mother, Janelle Nelson, who phoned for assistance and made Dell comfortable while waiting for help to arrive. Janelle and Danae's actions show how neighbors care for one another.

#### Active volunteer

Shirley Cook regularly donates her time and efforts to local shelters, nursing homes and church groups. She spends many hours at Cornerstone, a shelter for abused men, women and children, where she works on holiday programs and uses her teaching skills to help children with their schoolwork. Shirley's generosity and selfless acts strengthen our community.

#### Nominate a resident

The Excellence in Citizenship Award is an opportunity for citizens to recognize the efforts of fellow citizens. Highlighting the outstanding citizenship of Bloomington residents, the award demonstrates how compassion, kindness and generosity are alive and well in our city. To nominate someone for the award, call the Human Services Division at 952-563-8733; TTY 952-563-8740. ◆

### Bloomington thanks New York City firefighters

Mayor Gene Winstead hosted Firefighter Brian Rowan and his wife Jeannie in early March as part of a national effort to thank New York City's heroic firefighters and spur travel and tourism across the country.

#### Nationwide effort

*Cities Unite America and Thank New York Firefighters* was unveiled in January at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in New York City. As many as 300 mayors across the country hosted New York City firefighters,

one from each fire company, for a free weekend trip.

#### A well-deserved vacation

"Bloomington and cities across the nation are united in our support for the people of New York," said Mayor Winstead. "We were happy to host Firefighter Rowan and his wife to give them a well-deserved break. It was an honor to welcome a New York hero to Bloomington and show him the best of our city."

#### Highlighted events

The Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau

assisted Mayor Winstead in planning the visit. The weekend included tours of the Mall of America and other local attractions and dinner with the Mayor. The Rowans toured Fire Station #1 and visited with Bloomington firefighters, Mayor Winstead, Councilmembers and City staff. During the tour, a memorial print of September 11 was presented to Bloomington's Fire and Police Departments by resident David Ophaug. ◆



Mayor Gene Winstead, left, and Fire Chief Ulie Seal, right, flank New York Firefighter Brian Rowan who was honored by the City of Bloomington for his efforts on September 11.



# PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS UPDATE

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.



Dates to remember:

- Saturday, April 13 **Super Sign-up Saturday**  
Register for all summer programs at Oak Grove Intermediate, 1300 W. 106th St., 9 - 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 17 **Registration at Parks and Recreation** in City Hall begins.
- Saturday, June 8 **New Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach** open.
- Monday, June 10 **Summer Playground Program, youth tennis lessons and Arts in the Parks series** begin.
- Monday, June 17 **Tiny Tots Program** starts.

## Adaptive Recreation & Learning Exchange Cooperative (AR&LE)



offers opportunities for people with disabilities to actively participate in recreation, leisure and community education programs in the four cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield. In addition to specialized programs, we also offer inclusion services to people with disabilities as they participate in City and community education sponsored programs.

### Youth Softball

This program teaches the basic rules and good sportsmanship in a non-threatening environment. Siblings and parents are invited to volunteer.

- Who:** Boys and girls with disabilities, ages 10 - 18.  
**When:** Monday, June 3 - July 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Tarnhill Park Field #2, 9650 Little Road.  
**Cost:** \$40 resident; \$45 non-resident. Includes team shirt.  
**Register:** Call Parks and Recreation.

### Adult Co-Recreational Softball League

#### League A - Bloomington

- Who:** Adults, 19 and older. Players need softball experience, understanding of the scoring process and a desire to play in a competitive league.  
**When:** Tuesdays, June 4 - July 30, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Normandale Community College, 9700 France Avenue S.  
**Cost:** \$40 resident; \$45 non-resident. Includes team shirt.  
**Register:** Call Parks and Recreation.

#### League B - Richfield

- Who:** Adults, 19 and older. Players need to be able to follow simple directions and maintain a high interest in softball.  
**Register:** Call Kristin, Richfield Adaptive Recreation, at 612-861-9361.

#### Bloomington Parks and Recreation League

For information on an integrated adult team that will play in the Bloomington Parks and Recreation League, call Parks and Recreation.

### Socialize this summer

Make new friends! Try a social and recreational group. These programs provide people with disabilities the opportunity to socialize with others, learn leisure skills and have fun. Groups generally meet twice a month.

### Happenings

For young adults, 18 - 29 years old, who benefit from minimal supervision and structure.

### Saturday Night Out

For teens and young adults, 13 - 22 years old, who enjoy outings and in-house activities with moderate supervision and structure. ♦

## Bloomington Family Aquatic Center

**Scheduled opening: Saturday, June 8**  
**301 E. 90th Street**

The new Bloomington Family Aquatic Center is making a splash this summer. Amenities include a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play features, waterslides, diving boards, sand play area, sand volleyball and a newly remodeled bathhouse and concession stand.

**Dates:** June 8 - August 25.

**Time:** Noon - 8 p.m.

Cost:	Age	DAILY Admission	After 5 p.m.
	Under 1	Free	Free
	1 - 5	\$4	\$3
	6 - 54	\$6	\$4
	55 & Over	\$4	\$3

#### Season passes:

##### Family (2 people):

Resident	\$60 + \$10 each add'l + tax.
Non-Resident	\$110 + \$10 each add'l + tax.

##### Individual

Resident	\$30 + tax.
Non-Resident	\$55 + tax.

Purchase your season passes here:

- ♦ Super Sign-up on April 13.
- ♦ Parks and Recreation Office beginning April 23.
- ♦ Aquatic Center on June 8.

If the opening of the facility is delayed, Parks and Recreation will refund an adjusted amount to season pass holders.

### Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons are available this summer at the Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach. Details in the Summer Spectrum brochure.

### Bush Lake Beach

**9140 E. Bush Lake Road**

Reach for the beach! Can you think of anything better to do on a hot day? A daily or annual Three Rivers Park District pass is required for entrance to Bush Lake.

**When:** June 8 - August 25, 12 noon - 8 p.m. ♦



## Summer Spectrum 2002

A fun-filled season of activities for youth

Spanning eight weeks, Summer Spectrum will focus on youth entering grades 1 through 9. Classes and camps will be held at Oak Grove Elementary, 1300 West 104th Street, with bus transportation from the city's neighborhoods.

#### Catalog sent

To make planning easier, a catalog is being mailed to the parents of school age children in Bloomington.

If you have not received a catalog by April 5 or you need more information, call Parks and Recreation. The catalog is also on our Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).

#### Collaborative effort

Summer Spectrum is a program of Bloomington Public Schools' Community Education; the City of Bloomington's Parks and Recreation Division and the Bloomington Art Center. ♦

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